

four to thirty-six hours before the corolla opens the stigma begins to peep out through the center of the convoluted folds. It gradually protrudes farther until during the last afternoon it is from one-half to three-fourths inch beyond the highest point of the closed corolla. It is thus ready to be fertilized by the pollen of the flowers that are open the evening before its own opens. I have examined the other two species of *Datura* that grow here, but find no such contrivance for cross-fertilization.

J. SCHNECK, *Mt. Carmel, Ill.*, Aug. 22, 1887.

Entertainment of the Botanists in New York.—Nothing that could reasonably have been done to add to the profitable enjoyment of the botanists of the Association during its August meeting was omitted, and the execution of the carefully devised plans was accomplished without break. This result was brought about by the efforts of the Torrey Botanical Club, and thanks are due to no individuals more than to Dr. and Mrs. Britton.

Upon arrival the botanists found a room set apart for the Club, where they registered, and received their distinctive badges of yellow silk and a programme of the botanical announcements for the week.

A reception by the Torrey Club was given the Club of the Association on Friday evening in the commodious hall of the Columbia Library, which afforded a good opportunity for the exchange of courtesies and the renewal and promotion of acquaintanceship. A rich collation added to the pleasure of the evening.

No feature of the whole meeting was more enjoyable than the excursion to Sandy Hook, which took place Monday afternoon, and in which the entomologists joined with the botanists. Morning showers and a lowering sky threatened to repeat the Point Abino experience of last year; but the sky, the atmosphere and the temperature combined in really producing the most admirable of weather. A trim and cozy harbor steamer, well supplied with refreshments, made the hour's ride especially comfortable.

Sandy Hook is a low stretch of sandy sea-coast, with a rather meager flora of grass and herbaceous plants, with clumps of shrubs and low trees, and still fewer representatives of mosses, algæ, lichens and fungi. The locality was chiefly interesting for its peculiar sea-side character, and was in marked contrast to the rich and varied floras of the localities the club has usually visited. Among the plants which excited the most interest were the beach plum, *Prunus pumila*, with its black knot fungus; *Senecio cineraria*, the dusty miller of the gardens, with the habit of a native plant; a broad-jointed *Opuntia*, and the beautiful flowers of a *Sabbatia*, among the higher plants. Among lower plants, the abundance of a smut on the inflorescence of *Cyperus Grayi* attracted attention; a lichen gave a carpet-like growth upon the sandy soil in some places, and a single *Geaster* stood for the larger fungi.

During the return trip happy and instructive remarks were made upon the events and collections of the day by Mr. Morong, who acted as chairman, Judge Day, Mr. Canby, Dr. Beal, Mr. W. H. Seaman, Prof. Claypole, Dr. Britton, Dr. Arthur, Prof. Spalding, Mr. Jesup, Miss Steele, Mrs. Britton, Mrs. Wolcott, Mr. Fernow, Prof. Lazenby, Prof. Scribner, Dr. Allen and others of the botanical party, and several of the entomologists. The presence of the son and grandson of Dr. Torrey, although neither is a botanist, brought the name of the venerated botanist into stronger association with the place than anything had previously done. Altogether, the club has not had a more delightful and memorable excursion than the one to Sandy Hook.

The Torrey Club added to the pleasure of the visiting botanists by opening their comfortable library and herbarium room, and affording every facility for consulting books and specimens. It was a spot that had many charms, and was much visited. The generosity and forethought of the club toward their guests were also shown in the provision of a set of sixty-three species of the most interesting of the flowering plants of the vicinity, well mounted and labeled, which they were at liberty to take away with them, forming valuable souvenirs of the meeting.

The New York gathering will be remembered as a thoroughly delightful and profitable one.

Dispersion of seeds of *Euphorbia marginata* Pursh.—This beautiful species of spurge, which has within the last twelve years been first cultivated in this vicinity, under the common name of "Snow on the Mountain," or "Mountain of Snow," proves to be quite interesting as well as ornamental. It has escaped, and has gone a good distance from the flower beds and gardens, and has made itself at home in almost all parts of our country along the roadsides and near farm-houses. During September, 1886, I had a bouquet placed on my office table in which were several sprays of this species. While otherwise engaged I heard a sudden tick, as if some one had thrown a small gravel against the window-pane. This was repeated several times, and I stepped outside the room to look for the rascally urchin, but failed to find him. Afterward I discovered that the sound was caused by the sudden bursting of the seed-pods of the specimens of this plant which were in the bouquet. I kept this species under observation more or less constantly during the remainder of last season, and have learned the following facts about it:

The stiped ovary arises at first above the involucre, but as soon as the stipe is long enough to reach over the involucre it droops down over the outside, and thus remains inverted until the fruit is fully developed, which usually requires nearly one week. As the capsule begins to dry and the seeds to ripen it resumes the erect or vertical position. This last movement of near 180° is generally completed in less than one day. It is now ready to burst and scatter the seed. As it thus stands it consists